

CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

PUBLISHED BY PHILEMON CANFIELD, UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE CONNECTICUT BAPTIST CONVENTION.

"WHAT THOU SEEST, WRITE—AND SEND UNTO THE—CHURCHES."

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From the New York Messenger and Advocate.

THE BREAD UPON THE WATERS.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters—then shalt find it after many days."

The ship had hauled "down below," and James Allen stood before his mother, to say Farewell. Hardened, and reckless, though he had become—conscience forced him to this act, and he just hurried in, to—take leave.

Poor Mrs. Allen! Many a trouble—many a bitter pang—had she known before, but none so keen as this. Scarce a year back, her husband had been taken away; and during the six years preceding, every prop of earthly comfort seemed to have yielded, until the whole weight of her affection and solicitude centered at last in this only remaining child.

In previous afflictions she had manifested a holy calmness, an acqueous submission to the Divine will, a spirit of resignation, which referred these trials to a Father's hand, and murmured not. Now, however, that resignation was gone.

Was there in parting with a loving friend, any thing more trying than the final separation by death, to unmève at this moment a woman who had borne that other parting with fortitude? Ah! Mrs. Allen bore no anguish there for the present occasion.

She felt indeed, all a mother's fear lest some unforeseen ill might befall her son; but this would have been light, nay, she could have followed him calmly to the cold grave, were his soul unpolluted, as when her fond arms cherished him in infancy. He was no longer such. The image of that bright, lovely, innocent child, as he kept by her side, and learned to whisper—"Our Father who art in heaven," &c.—was this the vision lingering in her mind, and, when she found in its stead—the red face and worn form—the reckless character, and cold, distasteful manner, of that same, now altered, boy, the contrast was overpowering; and, with a loud hysterical sob, the mother sank back in her chair senseless.

At 10 o'clock the Aspen was under way. As the breeze struck her unfolding canvas, the beautiful ship plunged a little, and then darted swiftly onward, bearing her noble bow deep in the foaming waters.

Many a friendly eye followed her along, and many a wish was felt for her safe return among the neighbours who stood lingering on the beach.

These, as the Aspen receded from view, began to move away in groups, and in two hours' time the tract was deserted again by all, except one, a female, who stood gazing on the failing ship, herself as motionless as the rocks, near against which the angry billows incessantly burst. Despair seemed to have changed her to stone. Oh! the agony of a mother, over a lost, ungrateful child. It is beyond words, beyond every thing, but its own heart rending reality. Unlike the rest of human woes, it has no outlet in the sympathy of others. It can have but one avenue, that leads to the Throne of Grace. Unacquainted with this, but one result remains.

With dreadful stillness, that flood of anguish will swell, and strangle in the soul, pent up there with scarcely leave to wring out one burning tear, until nature gives way at last, and like a bursting of imprisoned waters, the dreadful tide sweeps down, on the barrier of life, hurrying the wrecked spirit away, on the ocean of eternity.

I have said there is one avenue of relief. Fortunately for Mrs. Allen, she was no stranger there, and while she kneeled at the throne of Mercy, its sweet and soothing influence allayed her burning grief. Ah! she learned now, why God had so tried her in the furnace of affliction, and taught her sorrow to pour itself on him. He had been to her a rock of confidence when all else had failed her. His promises alone, flung a deep, unquenchable radiance fit into the darkness of her despair. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, then shalt find it after many days." The very recollection, that she had sown so much seed, and reaped no fruit, lay, perhaps, at the bottom of her distress. The heart on which so much counsel, so many prayers had fallen powerless, might well seem impervious to mortal, (perhaps beyond the constant agency of divine) means, or if one tender chord remained, how could it be made to vibrate; now that the touching exhortation of a mother's voice was superseded by the rude oaths of sailors; and the abandoned conversation of the forecastle, instead of family prayer, would be the moral atmosphere around it. It was indeed a dark picture, but then, God can reach the heart of stone, and the recollection that James had thwarted her best hopes, that he had mingled with the profane, the drunken, the ungodly, only served to make Mrs. Allen more earnest, when she besought heaven to have mercy on him. Thus weeks, and months, passed on. The widowed mother, sometimes hoping, through faith,—and again, drawn down well-nigh to despondency. One doubt, (at such moments) weighed fearfully on her mind. Perhaps James might be already dead. Oh! what a chill it sent through her soul, when it came for the first time. It was a last blow to her hope. She knew it was the temptation of Satan to draw her mind from prayer; she felt that it was a groundless fear, but the suspicion, the most faint probability of its truth, was enough, when it came, to choke the utterance of prayer. How could she have faith for one who had already gone to the judgment? We bare barely alive, (though it were amid scenes of awful wretchedness,) she could wrestle for his salvation, but the grave, the cold, heartless, soulless grave, there is no work there, no tear of penitence ever moistens its clods, no ray of holy, living Faith illuminates it. It never heard the voice of entreaty, or responded to one accent of prayer. But, again, as she thought of her persevering instructions, of the seed sown in earlier years, a still voice would whisper, "thou shalt find it after many days," and the mother's heart leaned again on the strong arm of faith, till all doubt was conquered, and she felt a bold confidence, that God would some day send an answer to her prayers. Heaven had one more trial

in reserve, and waited only for its accomplishment, to reward, gloriously reward, that waiting upon the promise of Jehovah.

The time of equinoctial storms drew on. That which set in at the season on which I now fix, was unusually violent. It belonged to those rare, and terrible storms, which form data, in "the memory of the oldest inhabitants," and are remembered for years as fearful visitations. Such was the gale of September, 1815. Such, though less violent, the one to which I refer. There is sometimes, a long season of preparation, or mustering of clouds and winds, before the Equinox. At this time, for three days past, halos of peculiar distinctness had encircled the moon, and the sunlight wore a lurid, heavy cast. The atmosphere slowly thickened, with high, thin, strata of clouds (or vapors rather) and a Sabbath-like stillness pervaded all nature, and undisturbed by so much wind even, as might serve to turn the village weathercock, which lay facing the east. Considering this calmness in its subsequent effects, I have sometimes thought it seemed as if nature were holding her breath, until the struggling wind burst forth like the rushing of a steam valve, driving and rending the air with its deafening roar.

"But I am getting off my story. Suddenly, about noon of Wednesday, the gale began, and in a few hours was attended by an unremitted, penetrating rain; and as night set in, by darkness, comparable only to that which "might be felt."

On the rock-bound coast of Massachusetts, such seasons twin with destruction to the unhappy mariner, who has been equally unable to find safe anchorage, or run out again, far enough to sea, to weather the blow." Many a poor sailor has toiled away at her rigging, or pumps, day after day, and gone down at last, almost in sight of his paternal home; and many an one yet, will sink to the last sleep, amid the salt waves of Massachusetts Bay. In every village upon that coast, are they whose sons or brothers, whose near and dear ones, have found a grave in the deep and pathless waters.

This wide-reaching bereavement, has awakened a natural sympathy, among the inhabitants of the sea shore, which gains new tenderness, at every first dispensation of affliction. As the father reaches down his Bible at night, a fitful gust dashes the rain drops like hail against his window, while the old tree by the door sighs mournfully as it bends before the blast, and a tear will sometimes steal from the old man's eye, as he remembers his son, that once gladdened the family circle, but now,

• He is in the deep
Where a living footstep never may tread
And rude winds sweep
Unsheard—unfelt by the sleeping head,
And there is the dirge
Of the breaking surge,
The anthem of ocean pealed over his head
Unceasing—unstayed—till that fearful day
When ocean and sky shall have passed away."

As you meet a neighbour in the street, common-place remarks about the weather are supplied by the heart-felt expression, "What a time for sailors!" During the day too, you may see one, and another, standing in the storm upon the sea shore, half unconsciously, watching the ocean, its white surface white with foam, and the spray all around flashing, and leaping up, and scarce any word will be uttered, except the sentence I have quoted above. It is a tender sympathy, and stands like a receding record, over against the selfishness of man, for it leads men to peril their own lives, to rescue the wrecked mariner from his watery grave.

About one mile from the shore, and half that distance in addition, from Mrs. Allen's residence, lay a reef of rocks, covered generally at half tide, though no time more than two and a half feet below the surface. Upon this, the surf, as it came rolling heavily in, like a wall of water, was seen, bursting and tumbling, and then came a voice of thunder, the death roar of the billow as it made the tremendous shock, and was lost in the foam below. All night long, (while the storm was at its height,) Mrs. Allen lay hearkening to that fearful sound, but amid it all, she did not dream that James might be exposed to it. The vessel in which he sailed, had but two months of absence ahead, and she offered a prayer of grateful thanksgivings, that he was not now on the coast.

In the morning the storm had somewhat abated; but, on the reef, lay a merchant ship, dismasted, and evidently going to pieces under the dreadful concussion of the bursting waves. Every sea made a clear breach over her, driving her bow farther upon the reef and staving in her timbers. Not a soul appeared on board, and had there been a hundred there, assistance could not have been rendered. Before night the wreck was gone. The green salt billows dashed, and roared, and settled down, alone. No boat had put off at all from the wreck, and it seemed certain that every one on board had perished. During the night and morning, spars and planks came drifting in, but nothing seemed to throw light on the name or character of the ship.

Conjecture thought her a merchantman, which begged and driven off her course, had met this unhappy fate. About noon however, some individual, living about three miles off, brought to the village a boy of 14, who alone was left from a gang of eight, (officers included.) The ship went on the reef just after midnight, and all hands were swept over. This boy had unconsciously grasped a loose spar on the deck; round which he was found clinging, next morning, asleep on the beach. The ship was the Aspen, from the Mediterranean, bound to Boston. James Allen was among the lost. Reader, you remember how Mrs. Allen had been well nigh broken-hearted, when he left home, and you perhaps wait to read, that this last blow sank her at once into the grave. On hearing the tidings of woe, suddenly she turned ashy pale, and sat for a moment in speechless agony, as if the deep gushings of nature were contending fiercely against the disciplined calmness of religion, but the latter prevailed. She had drawn too near God, and too long witnessed his providences, to forget in time of trouble, his soothng hand. Lifting her eyes to heaven, as the big burning tears fell from them, she exclaimed, "thy will be done," and said no more. It was the triumph of faith, and he who hath promised, "Fear not, I will be with thee," stood there to lull the aching soul.

It was somewhat remarkable, that Providence should have so protected that young man, through perils and sickness, to die at last in sight of his mother's dwelling. Mysterious are the ways sometimes, by which God pursues his plans of benevolence, but under his darkest dispensation, we have the assurance that infinite wisdom, and infinite love, shall be our aim to be active in this service.

On the second day after the wreck, five of the bodies were washed on shore. Three were the remains of persons who had been born in the village.

HARTFORD, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1833.

Whole No. 619.

From the New York Weekly Messenger.

CAFFRE RELIGION.

Till the servants of God came forth from Britain, there were no teachers of religion, either true or false; for the Caffres never had a priesthood, nor so much as a single native priest exclusively set apart for religious purposes. The notion of sacrifices which remained among them was so exceedingly faint, that it was but the shadow of a shade. And though circumcision is practised on all youths at about the age of thirteen, yet it is exclusively a civil rite, and not in any way connected with religion: an uncircumcised son would be incapable of inheriting his father's property. The origin of this rite is with them completely obliterated; nor can any thing exceed the astonishment which the Caffres have often manifested when hearing of the first institution thereof in the days of Abraham. To this people British benevolence has given, though not to the extent which is required, Christian ministers—men who teach them to worship God in spirit and in truth; who direct them to the sacrificial offering of Christ as the sole ground of pardon and acceptance with God; who have established among them the Christian sacraments of baptism and the supper of the Lord; and who are providing for another generation the word of God in their own tongue, and preparing the young to read that word by which they may be saved; for these nations formerly had no learning: they were a people without a book: they had no letter—no hieroglyphic—no character of any kind. For the origin of these things they are indebted, not to infidelity, but to Christianity; in which, indeed, are all our happiness and glory.

Though destitute of religion, superstition, which is too often substituted for it, was abundantly found in this land; and it still prevails to a very awful extent. Superstition is everywhere connected with cruelty. In this land, almost every kind of affliction and disease, and even the infirmities of old age, were wont to be attributed to the influence of witchcraft; so that whenever an individual fell sick, a doctor was sent for, not only to administer medicine, but also to ascertain what individual or individuals had been guilty of troubling the afflicted with his malady. Chachabi, the father of our late chief Ishambi, was famous for the punishments which he inflicted on many innocent persons who had been accused of this crime. By the river Xacon, there is a tremendous craggy precipice, called by the Caffres, Uwa Annaqua, or the Doctor's Precipice: because they who were accused by those deceivers of bewitching their neighbours, were brought by Chachabi to this place, and, being bound hand and foot, were cast over, and falling from crag to crag, were dashed to pieces ere they came to the bottom. For many years past, no victim has perished on this spot; nor is it likely that any more authorized murders will take place there. The more general way, however, of punishing the accused has been by applying hot stones to the tenderest parts of the body, till the miserable victim is deprived of life, or ruined for all his future days. This horrible practice still continues, but not to an equal extent: the chiefs are ashamed of it, and keep the knowledge of it as much as possible from their respective missionaries. The influence of superstition has certainly been lessened; and it continues to decrease, although it still opposes a mighty obstacle to the full success of the Gospel. But in our work there are no insuperable difficulties: the Gospel has never met with an evil which it could not overcome, nor will it to the end of the world.

As to morality, neither the theory nor the practice thereof were discernible among them in their native state. There was no justice, no mercy, no holiness, no truth: there were none that did good, no, not one. On the contrary, wickedness spread the whole land, which was full of thefts, covetousness, lasciviousness, and almost every species of crime. Iniquity thus reigned unto death—uncounted, unchecked, and unreproved, so far as the eye of man could discern; for the people seemed to be without any law which condemned vicious propensities, or any fear of the righteous indignation of God. That they were not absolutely without law, is evident from the circumstance of their having had for all generations words which denote moral delinquency; still the veil was on their hearts; and through the love of sin, their eyes were blinded that they could not discern it. Sin abounded to such an alarming extent, that they appeared to be without law; and unless grace had much more abounded, by sending to them the Gospel, none would have been redeemed from his iniquity, or turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. But by the word of salvation, this change hath been effected; and there are now Caffres to be found who may truly be denominated moral men; for obedience to the faith is manifest in the truth, honesty and general integrity of their lives; and, throughout the whole community, there is now exhibited a moral standard of right and wrong; to which, whenever we appeal, the consciences of the people force them to submit, and pronounce sentence of condemnation against themselves. Being without literature, they have neither Shasters nor Koran to oppose to our Scriptures; and therefore, however heedless and neglectful they may generally be of divine truth, whenever it is brought home to the heart, they will, in a great majority of instances, acknowledge that it is holy, just and good.

TEXAS.

In the Evening Star of Saturday we find the following summary account of the first settlement of the immense tract of country known by the name of "The Province of Texas," but which is at present unappropriated by either of the United States or Mexican Governments. The account is appended to the notice of a new work lately published, descriptive of that country, by Mrs. Mary Austin Holley. Speaking of the Malthusian doctrine of excess of population, and of the alarm sounded by political economists, that the Earth's capability of production was incomparably less than the increase of the human race—the editor says: "The philanthropist heard all the tale of coming war, but indulged the hope that something might be devised to soften these calamities; but the enterprising and practical laughed at the whole farce, and set about exploring unknown regions. Among these practical men whom Malthus did not alarm, was Moses Austin, Esq. He was a native of Durham, in the State of Connecticut. He left that State for Virginia, to work lead mines. These not answering his purpose, he migrated to Misuri, to open lead mines there. After the treaty of 1829, made by Don Onis and our government, Mr. Austin conceived the project of making a settlement in Texas. This country was then but little known to any traveller; the sea coast had been pretty well explored, but information of the interior could not be obtained except from the Indians and hunters. In 1821, Mr. Austin obtained liberty from the supreme government of the Eastern

Internal Province of New Spain, to settle a colony in Texas. Mr. Austin died while making preparations for carrying his plan into effect. Before Mr. Austin's death, he enjoined it upon his son, Col. Stephen F. Austin, to follow up his intentions. This he has done with great energy and success. It is now only twelve years since he began to select his location, and fix his emigrants, in order to commence the great work of founding a colony. Never was there a fortunate beginning to a colony in any age or country. A part of his provisions were shipwrecked, and the savages stole the rest; but the little band was not discouraged, for if they could not find buffaloes, they fed on horse-flesh, and preserved themselves until the earth was made to yield them food.

The savages were troublesome, but the colonists were too weak to make fight, and waited with trepidation until they gained strength, and then showed the men of the woods that they had a master. After many difficulties the colony began to flourish, and is now in the full tide of successful experiment. The number of the colonists is too large to fear invasion from any power that may ever think of attacking them. This territory of Texas has now been in a good measure surveyed, and it is found to contain much excellent soil. Its rivers are numerous, its harbors safe, and its climate salubrious. Nature has done everything for men in that region. Some portions of the soil are capable of supporting as many human beings to the square mile as the country on the borders of the Nile; and it has no adjacent desert to bind or suffocate the traveller, nor any task master to insist on controlling the labors of men to erect a Pyramid, or sculpture a Sphinx. In this region, from situation, and from the low, high and wavy lands, summer suns are deprived of intolerable heat, and from the same physical causes, winter loses much of its severity. This country has perhaps never had a touch of civilization since it reared its head from the ocean, until Mr. Austin commenced his settlement. It was exclusively the region of the wild man, the buffalo, and the bear, but more particularly of the wild fowl that come from the East and North to winter here; but it was without historian or poet until the autumn of 1831, when Mrs. Mary Austin Holley, the wife of Rev. Dr. Horace Holley, made a visit to Texas. She is a lady of first rate education, calm, philosophical, and well trained to thinking. She is fond of natural scenery, and an admirer of tree, shrub, and flower, but equally capable of judging of soils and of the mineral kingdom. In the book whose title is at the head of this article, she has given a pleasant, and we have no doubt, a fair account of the Texas, as far as she could see and judge, and as far as she could gather information from others.

It is a well written little book, and will give much light to those who think of emigrating to that country, and greatly relieve the political economist who grew hungry by thinking his fellow beings must starve, as the world was so sadly crowded with life. She considers it a fine place for such emigration; and there can be no doubt but that, if the British government would assist in planting a British colony in Texas, they would do more good to the oppressed nation than by an hundred laws of reform, which never increases their meat. The good lady sends forth a lament, and a deep one—over the diminishing tribes of Indians; she praises the Comanches for a sense of justice, although it still opposes a mighty obstacle to the full success of the Gospel. But in our work there are no insuperable difficulties: the Gospel has never met with an evil which it could not overcome, nor will it to the end of the world.

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INTERESTING CONVERSION.—"Two Mongol-Tartar chiefs, from the borders of China, some years ago came to St. Petersburg, to acquaint themselves with the learning and arts of Europeans; bringing this remarkable recommendation, that they were the best and most sensible men belonging to their tribe. Among other occupations, they were engaged to assist a German clergyman, resident in that city, in a translation of St. Matthew's Gospel into their native tongue. This work was carried on for many months, and day by day they were accustomed to collate, with the minister, such portions of the common task as one, the other, or all three had completed; in the course of which, they would often ask questions respecting circumstances and allusion, as well as doctrines and sentiments contained in the book, which, to be faithful interpreters, they deemed it right to understand well for themselves beyond the literal text. On the last day, when the version was presumed to be as perfect as the practice could render it, the two sanguine (or chiefs) sat silent but thoughtful, when the manuscript lay closed upon the table. Observing something unusual in their manner, their friend inquired whether they had questions to ask. They answered "none," and then to the delight and amazement of the good man—who had carefully avoided, during their part intercourse, any semblance of wishing to proselytize them—they both declared themselves converts to the religion of that book. So they proved in the sequel; but with that part of the history, though exceedingly interesting, we have not to do at present. One remark which the elder made, and the younger confirmed, has caused this reference to them. He said

CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

From Fraser's Magazine.
HELLS IN LONDON.

The officers of justice are regularly kept in the pay of the proprietors of gambling houses, or hells, through whom timely notice is always given of any information laid against the establishment, and the intended attack guarded against. If this be doubtful, the same can be attested on oath, and otherwise proved beyond question. The expenses of some gambling houses in London during the season (seven months) exceed ten thousand pounds; what, then, must be the gains to support this advance and profusion of property? Elegant houses are superbly fitted up;—the most delicate viands and the choicest wines, with every other luxury, are provided to lure and detain those for whom the proprietors' nets are spread. It is almost an impossibility to convict these wicked men under the present law; their enormous wealth is applied to the corruption of evidence, always unwilling, because the witnesses expose their own habits and culpability in attending these nefarious dens of infamy. The sleeping partners are ever ready to advance money to oppose prosecutions, and often come forward to give evidence in opposition to the witnesses, and to blacken the character of those who offer their testimony: then there is always money to support those who may chance once in ten years to be convicted. Many practising attorneys, are connected with these establishments, who threaten prosecution for conspiracies; and not unfrequently fictitious debts are sworn to, and arrests for large amounts made, to keep witnesses from appearing at court on the day of trial. One professional man in the parish of St. Anne, has to my certain knowledge, supported himself for thirty-five years by lending himself in this way to the middling rate gambling houses at the west end of the town; his method is either to suborn or intimidate the parties, by threatening to indict them for perjury, or otherwise persecute them to utter destruction.

RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT IN FRANCE.

According to the Code Napoleon, all the clergy of France are required to be educated in one of the French Universities, and there are also three schools of Divinity established by the state, in which they are in like manner required to obtain their theological education. One of those Seminaries is at Geneva, one at Strasbourg, and one at Montauban, and they are all decidedly under Unitarian influence, and opposed to evangelical religion. In this state of things, the Evangelical Society of Geneva have established a new school of Divinity, and appointed four eminent Divines as professors, and made their appeal to Christians in England and the United States, to aid them by their prayers and efforts. But it is impudent how students from this Seminary can gain admittance to the churches in France, under the regulation mentioned above. This is indeed a serious difficulty, but one which the Society hope will be obviated ere long by the progress of light and freedom. As it is, however, there is nothing to prevent students from the new Seminary from being ordained, and filling any place which they please, unpaid by the Government. Important situations of this description are daily opening, and vast fields presenting for cultivation by faithful laborers.—*Religious Intelligencer.*

PLEADINGS OF THE FAIR SEX FOR TEMPERANCE.

Messrs. Ford and Durrell, have just published in a handsome octavo of 31 pages, Mr. Sargent's Address before the Worcester Temperance Society, issued at the Society's request. We cannot refrain from giving one of its beautiful passages, in which he illustrates an actual Appeal from our fair sisters:

"In the town of Bennington, a name which can never be forgotten, the daughters have set us an example, in this moral revolution of the world, fully equal to that exhibited by their worthy fathers, in our great political revolution of old; six hundred females have petitioned the board of excise to grant no license in that town, for the sale of ardent spirit. What an appeal is this! The mothers, the daughters, the sisters, petition the constituted authorities of a town in behalf of their fathers, their husbands, and their brothers! Take not away from us, these petitioners may be supposed to say, take not away from us the happiness of our homes, the peace of our firesides; place not alluring snares, at the corners of our streets, to entangle the feet of those whom we love; to instead the steps of our fathers, and cover with shame those grey hairs, which we are commanded to honor; to stony the heads and corrupt the hearts, of those to whom we are united in the closest ties, for better, for worse; let not loose upon the world a cold, calculating, mercenary body of men, who, for the sake of a little lucre, shall tempt our husbands with the drunkard's draught, and win away our children's bread; annihilate our hopes of happiness on earth; give us ashes for beauty and mourning for the oil of joy; and leave us, after a pilgrimage of consecrated misery, the helpless and houseless children, and the heart-broken widows of unprofitable drunkards!"

YOUNG MEN'S BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI.

The first annual meeting of this society was held at Cincinnati, on the 7th instant. Mr. Davis of this city, delivered the annual address. The extracts from their Annual Report which are subjoined, are laid before our readers because we think the sentiments and arguments are strictly scriptural; because there is no giving up of first principles, but (if the phrase be allowable), Bible foremost, they seek for the legitimate object of their pursuit, and with that light shining upon their path, aided by sound discriminating common sense, piously pursue it. The most eminent Christians are liable as well as other men, to fall into extremes; and into such extremes it is feared, nay, believed, many have already fallen, in reference to the subject of gracious and acquired qualifications for the Gospel ministry. The authors of their Report seem to have imbibed scriptural and sound faith upon the objects before them; from which it is hoped they may never swerve. It adds no small degree of weight to the Report to say, that the Convention then in session adopted it as their view of these important subjects.

Our general object is to promote ministerial education, and thus to increase the power and efficiency of the Christian ministry—an object which, in point of importance, yields to no other, save one; and that is, the exercise of the office of a Christian minister—the preaching of the Gospel—the sacred employment of preaching Christ and him crucified.

Preach the word—Preach the Gospel to every creature, are the precepts, or rather are different forms of the precept of the New Testament, pointing the disciples of Christ to the great instrumentality which they are to use for disseminating the saving knowledge and the benign and blessed influences of his Gospel. The paramount claims of this instrumentality cannot be too often repeated, too strongly urged, or too deeply imprinted on our minds. Justly has it been said, that it stands in the front rank among the instrumentalities which the Scriptures authorize for this purpose, and that it stands there alone, leaving all others far behind;

that it stands above, immeasurably above all others, leaving them altogether subordinate in their claims to regard. It finds claims to this high pre-eminence in the express command of the Head of the church, in the fact that it can be used under all circumstances of human society, and in the fact that the living voice of the preacher carries truth to the hearts and consciences of those who hear, far more effectually than any other method of communication. The preaching of the Gospel therefore by those whom God by his grace has qualified for this work is a matter of transcendental value. If this be so, then, to increase the power and efficiency of those who engage in this sacred employment, is no less truly a matter of high moment. At this we aim in pronouncing ministerial education.

In the remaining part of this report, a few thoughts will be thrown out in answer to the following inquiries, viz.: 1. Is ministerial education needed? 2. If it is, what kind and degree is needed? 3. What are the best plans for promoting it?

1. The first inquiry is, Is ministerial education needed? To determine this, let us look at the qualifications which a minister needs. These are two-fold—spiritual and natural. The spiritual qualifications embrace the graces of the ordinary Christian and the peculiar mental exercises of those who are called of God to the ministry. These are the gift of God, not as a knowledge of astronomy, or philosophy, or medicine, or of any trade or profession, might be called the gift of God. They cannot be learned; but they must be wrought in the soul by the energies of the Holy Ghost. And these qualifications are indispensable; nothing will compensate for their absence; they are always to be made the first inquiry in ascertaining the fitness of any one for the ministerial office, and if they are wanting, further inquiry is precluded. But where these are found, natural qualifications are also to be sought for, in connection with them. To be a good minister, one must be "apt to teach." Good native talents and acquired knowledge must be possessed. The acquisition of knowledge is the business of education.

To repeat what has now been said in another form, a minister must have a head that knows, a heart that feels, and a tongue that can speak. The feeling heart cannot be had by learning nor study; it is the gift of God,—the work of the Holy Spirit. But knowledge and the ability of communicating it, are the result of education.

To teach is a prominent part of the business of a minister of the Gospel; but he must know—he must not only feel—he must *know* and be able to speak, before he can teach; he must therefore be educated. But, says one, it is *spiritual* knowledge that the preacher wants, and the schools cannot furnish this—human teaching cannot furnish it. Suppose then, for a moment, that the Spirit of God imparts directly all the knowledge that a preacher needs, so that when he ascends the pulpit or the stand, without previous meditation or study, he can truly say that he gives attendance to what God tells him, or what the Spirit suggests to him, what would be the consequence? The infidelity of the preacher. But no one can have the hardihood to maintain this. Let us then hear no more about the uselessness of learning and study to a preacher of the Gospel, for the contrary must be the lesson of every man's experience, as well as the dictate of common sense. Every man is sensible that he knows only what he has learned, and it is a first principle of common sense, that no one can teach more than he knows. The need of education for ministers may be inferred from the example of Christ. During his three years ministry on earth, he was the *instructor* of those who became apostles; he taught them—he said many things to them. When the apostles were afterwards inspired and had committed his instructions to writing, then the young preachers were to study these records. Timothy was directed to give himself to reading—to study. In the absence of an institution for the purpose, he was to educate himself. It may be inferred from the case of Paul, whose superior success in his Master's service, we may, in part, at least, ascribe to his superior learning. It may be inferred from the fact that a knowledge of the geography of the countries, and of the manners and customs, alluded to in the Bible, is necessary to illustrate the sacred page. In one word, if ministers need no education, then the *churches* need no ministers; for it were as true to say, that the Holy Spirit imparts directly and immediately to the new convert all the knowledge that he needs to guide him in the Christian life, as to say that the Holy Spirit imparts directly and immediately to the preacher all the knowledge which he needs in the exercise of the ministry. But we need not argue this point. Prejudice is the only obstacle to an affirmative answer. Let us prosecute our purpose, and give a good education to as many of our young ministering brethren as we can, and we shall disarm prejudice of its force.

The spontaneous preference, which all persons free from prejudice, are ready to yield to a preacher who has had the advantages of education, may be illustrated by the following incident.

In the vicinity of one of our literary institutions, where several young Baptist ministers were pursuing their studies, a church, whose members were violently prejudiced against colleges and college-educated ministers, had passed a vote, that they would admit no one from the neighbouring institution into their pulpit. Shortly after this they sent to minister then residing near the institution, whom they did not know, but with whose preaching they supposed, from information, they should be pleased. The minister agreed to attend and preach for them on the day named in their request. Circumstances however prevented his going in person; he therefore engaged a young ministering brother, who had nearly completed his studies at the institution, of which he was a member, to go in his stead. This young brother was unknown to any of the church. He came to the place at the hour appointed; and with a fluent and ready utterance, with a warm heart and fervent spirit, and with a well-furnished mind, he delivered his Master's message. The members of the church, who supposed all this while that the preacher was the individual for whom they had sent, and who had never been in a literary institution, were delighted. Their hearts were opened. They pressed him to visit them again, to which he consented. In the mean time, they ascertained who their preacher was; that he was a member of the neighbouring institution. But they had committed themselves; he had gained their hearts, and the approbation of their judgment. It was the end of their prejudice against learning in a minister. After this, they were ready to admit and to act on the principle, that learning cannot make a minister, but that it can greatly increase his power of being useful.

Our next inquiry is, What kind and degree of education is needed? To the first part of this inquiry our answer is short. A knowledge of the Scriptures, and of the subjects which they unfold, together with a competent skill in the use of language, is the *kind* of knowledge that is wanted. But the extent—to ascertain this, we may consider how much there is to be known,—and how much may be turned to the most useful account.

The field of knowledge is boundless. The Bible is the great fountain of that knowledge which the Christian minister needs to possess; and it is inexhaustible. The important subjects which it presents spread out before us, are sufficiently numerous and deep and intricate to employ even the whole life of

the most active and the profoundest mind. The field of labor must therefore be entered before the field of knowledge is fully explored.

A glance at the field of labor may assist in determining how far the field of knowledge is to be explored before entering upon active service. Our attention must now be directed to the condition of society generally—to the degree of culture possessed by the great portion of the community—to the degree of culture best adapted to move the majority of minds—to the wants of our churches and the condition of destitute regions—and to the circumstances of those who are entering upon the work of the ministry. The estimate of some is, that in mental culture and general information, the minister of the Gospel should be at least equal, if not superior to the best educated and best informed class of society. And in this view, a period of from six to eight years is thought necessary for a thorough theological education. If the question be, What is desirable? perhaps the answer could not admit any thing short of this. Indeed there are stations where this seems not only desirable, but almost indispensable. Let the already existing institutions in the older parts of our country provide for these stations; and let it remain with those institutions, and the men connected with them, to operate by this standard. The desirableness and value of an education according to this standard, we shall most readily acknowledge.

I am, dear brother, affectionately your friend as ever,

C. BENNETT.

From the Bap. Weekly Journal.

DO THE DISCIPLES IN AMERICA DRINK SPIRITS?

The subjoined remarks were made by brother Wade, while the Report on the subject of Temperance was under consideration in our recent General Meeting. The query had been started—not whether the Temperance cause is entitled to the hearty support of every disciple of Christ—but whether it was expedient for the Meeting to act on the subject. The remarks of brother Wade, few and simple as they were, produced a thrilling effect. And deservedly. Only think of it, Christian reader,—the people in Burmah looking at America, and asking, Do the disciples in America drink ardent spirits? And this, we readily see, to the effect of their learning that this is the fact—the pagan Burmans turning away in scorn from the religion of Jesus, for allowing what they look upon as irreligious and immoral, and the little band of Christian Burmans, seduced by our example into a ruinous habit. O that the disciples in America may beware of causing their brethren in Burmah to stumble and fall, and that our missionaries in Burmah may soon be able to say to the inquiring Burman, that "No disciple in America drinks ardent spirits."

"Mr. Moderator,—I feel interested that this report should be adopted, for I think it will help us some in Burmah. It is contrary to the religion of the natives there, to taste intoxicating liquors. And the native converts have often asked the question, "Do the disciples in America drink spirits?" We smoothed over the matter as well as we could; but truth obliged us to say, "They do drink a little, occasionally, but not to get intoxicated." Soon we found that the native Christians, in imitation of their elder brethren in America, had introduced among themselves the practice of drinking a little, and that embracing Christianity began to be associated in the minds of the natives with the liberty to drink spirits; and that on this account, Christianity was becoming a stench in the nostrils of the heathen. We were alarmed, but knew not how to check the evil until we heard of temperance societies as becoming general in our native country; then we took a decided stand; and I hope this report will be adopted, for it will materially help our cause, if I am able to go back and tell the church in Burmah, and the heathen there too, that the American churches in the east and west have raised their united voice against drinking ardent spirits."

For the Christian Secretary.

WHAT I LIKE TO SEE.

I like to see twenty or thirty gentlemen assemble at a church door a few minutes before divine service commences, and instead of entering the house and repairing to their respective seats, thus preparing their minds for the solemn exercises of the day, I like to see them engage in conversation, and hear each relate all he has seen, heard, or thought, during the previous week,—and, if possible, take their stands in such a manner as to prevent, or render extremely difficult my entrance into the church; as this will show the solemnity of their minds and the object of their assembling at the house of God.

I like to see the young men of a congregation stand on and around the steps of a church door while the people are assembling, and if any females attempt to force their way through the crowd into the house, stare them rudely in the face, indulge themselves in free remarks respecting their dress and looks, and laugh at their general appearance; as this will show their politeness and good breeding.

I like to see people, old and young, lounge round a church door till divine service has commenced; and then each rush in with the greatest haste, and make as much noise as possible, and thus entirely interrupt the exercises for several minutes; as this will show their sense of propriety and respect for divine things.

I like to see people late at church—see them enter fifteen or twenty minutes, or even half an hour after the exercises have commenced,—if possible, in prayer time; and, instead of entering the first empty slip or pew, brush up the broad aisle with as much noise as possible, or sufficient to disturb the whole congregation, and if there happen to be any strangers in their seats, compel them to walk out, and seek for seats elsewhere, thus causing ten or a dozen new doors to be opened, to accommodate them with a seat: as this will show the benevolence of their hearts, and their regard for those who have assembled for the object of prayer and praise.

I like to see parents take their children to meeting and allow them, during the whole of divine service, to laugh, play, and kick their feet against the seats, and make as much disturbance as possible, as this will show the activity and sprightliness of their little ones.

I like to see a congregation, especially the younger people in the galleries, as soon as the minister rises to pronounce the benediction, (even before he commences) start from their seats, and rush out of the house with all the haste imaginable, as this will show that they have not lost the use of their limbs, and will clearly exhibit to all, the joy, pleasure, and happiness that they experience, while attending in the house of God.

Mr. Editor, will you tell me what you like to see?

EDITOR'S REPLY.

We like to see sons follow the examples set by fathers; but not when fathers set the example of carousing in or around a church door to do up their gossip; and less yet do we like it, if such fathers happen to be members of the church; for such a practice seems to show that professors of religion mistake their duty, and have very little sense of propriety.

We like to see males and females, both old and young, in small groups knotted together, in the avenues leading out of a church, and there whispering and tittering, while they so effectually obstruct the way, that hundreds behind cannot leave the house. This shows a superlative contempt for the accommodation of all who wish soberly to retire, and cannot

We like to see all such odious, unmannerly, impious, and irreligious practices as the above, abandoned, and all persons who come to a house of worship, conducting more agreeably to the rules of

DECENCY.

Religion in Tennessee Penitentiary.—Governor Carroll of Tennessee, in his late message to the State Penitentiary:—

"A large portion of them have manifested the deepest contrition for the errors of their past lives, and an anxious concern for their future happiness.—About twenty have professed religion, and with the exception of a few, their attention to religious works, Sabbath schools, and the rules of the prison, give the most flattering proof of the sincerity of their professions."

CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

HARTFORD, DECEMBER 7, 1833.

WESTERN CORRESPONDENCE.

NO. 10.

Hartford Dec. 2, 1833.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I now hasten to give you the concluding number of this series of Western Correspondence.

I left Pittsburg on Monday evening, Nov. 18, at 8 o'clock, in the stage for Philadelphia. In traveling at the West, the people seem to "love darkness rather than light," for the stages as I learned by report as well as by experience, usually set off at night. The reason which I heard assigned is, that merchants wish to spend the day doing business in the cities, and think this arrangement a saving of time. The Rev. Mr. Kirk, of Albany, became my companion in travel, from Pittsburg. We breakfasted at Blairsburg, on Tuesday morning, and soon after found ourselves ascending "the everlasting hills" of the Allegany. We crossed the Chestnut Ridge, the Laurel, and what is called by way of eminence the Allegany.

During the whole of Wednesday the scenery was picturesque, and in some instances truly grand. The limpid Juniata river, the Pennsylvania canal, and the turnpike run parallel and near together.—On each side of the valley are huge mountains, lifting their proud summits to the skies. The road hugged the northern mountain, and was frequently so narrow that the wheels passed within a few inches of precipices, some twenty, thirty, or sixty feet, with not even a rail for protection. We passed through some pleasant villages, among which were Huntingdon, and Lewistown. At midnight we reached Harrisburg, the seat of government for Pennsylvania. By moonlight, I had a hasty glance of the Capitol, the edifice erected for the public functions on each side of it, the meeting-houses, &c. and was very favorably impressed with the simplicity and beauty of the town.

Our journey on Thursday was in the valleys of the Susquehanna and Schuylkill, said to be the most pleasant part of Pennsylvania. Numerous villages are on this route. Lebanon, Reading, Pottstown, and Norristown, are peculiarly beautiful. The land is excellent and under a high state of cultivation; the houses are neat and plain, reminding one of the simplicity of the original founder of the state. My attention was often attracted to the barns. Very many are constructed of stone, and of large dimensions; and they really appear more like the comfortable habitations of men, than the abodes of irrational beings. The Pennsylvanian is truly "a merciful to his beast," and no doubt finds his reward, not only in the excellence of his cattle, but in the consciousness of having done right.

After riding three successive nights and days, I reached Philadelphia, about 8 o'clock on Thursday evening.

I can think of nothing which occurred in the conclusion of my journey worthy of remark, except that in New York, I spent the Lord's day, and on the Monday morning following, I had the privilege of attending the Minister's meeting. Our Baptist ministers have the custom of meeting at 9 o'clock every Monday morning, for mutual edification and prayer. The particular object of prayer is the success of the preaching on the preceding day.—Difficult passages of Scripture are sometimes considered; interesting facts communicated; and advice given in difficult cases given. The meeting must, I think, have a tendency to strengthen the bonds of fraternal love, and to give greater efficiency, as well as pleasure to ministerial labor. May God bless them at every sitting, and may their prayers be answered in the abundant success which he shall give to their united efforts to advance his blessed cause.

I arrived home on the day before our annual Thanksgiving, and in view of the numerous blessings conferred by kind Providence, upon me and mine during this protracted separation, felt increased obligation, in the services of that joyous occasion, to "enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praises."

Yours, DELTA.

At the monthly concert of prayer at the Baptist conference room in this city, on Monday evening, some facts were laid before the assembly by the Rev. Mr. Davis, which were not only deeply interesting to all, but to many, entirely new. These statements were the fruit of information obtained during his recent attendance of the Western Baptist Convention, at Cincinnati, and being much in company with those indefatigable and devoted missionaries, brother and sister Wade. His first topic was the particular feelings and views of Western Baptists; and the origin of their peculiar jealousies in regard to ministerial education, and the prosecution of the missionary and other benevolent enterprises. It was the recital of certain facts in connection with the origin and existence of their peculiar sensibilities, that were new to many hearers, and not the general causes of their jealousies, and aversion to a learned ministry. These we deem common to both the descendants of Virginia and New England; in both of which once existed odious and domineering religious establishments. These established churches were served by a learned ministry; and under the ecclesiastical laws, the early Baptists both at the North and South, were oppressed, degraded, fined, whipped, imprisoned, disfranchised, despised. As it was natural for the mass of those who suffered, to make no distinction between the qualifications of the clergy, and those laws which sustained them, the learning of ministers was confounded with

the fact. And without any idols, or any religion, are calling upon the missionaries to give them the word of God. Their tradition that white foreigners were expected to give them the knowledge of God, has been made known to the public; but we do not recollect hearing the tradition represented as embracing the fact, that they had once, in ages not known, possessed the word of God, and had lost it. But such is the tradition which has been transmitted from generation to generation, from time immemorial, by popular odes and songs; for they have no written language. They place such implicit confidence and unhesitating faith in the printed word of God, in respect to both historical facts, and doctrine or precept, that let their wonder at any statement be what it may, the moment they hear from the sacred page, a "Thus saith the Lord," every doubt is at an end, confounding faith-silences further inquiry,—and their minds are at rest. Such are *seventeen* millions of human beings, who are clustering around the missionaries, and with outstretched arms imploring them saying, "give us the word of God. You are the white foreigners, (say they.) O give us the word of God,—we once had it, but have lost it. Why do you not give it to us all?" The Missionary replies, "we have not men enough to print them; neither have we money to buy types and paper, and to hire them printed. Besides, we must first translate them into our language; and we will do it as fast as we can," &c. Brother Wade says it is heart-rending to hear the Kereans in answer to such remarks exclaim with redoubled earnestness,—"O give us quickly the word of God,—you have it,—we have lost it!" We mention these facts to show Christians, how far in advance of our prayers, or aims, or efforts, are the calls of perishing men for the Bible, and the Gospel of the grace of God; and to quicken and cheer the whole church of God in the Bible and Missionary cause. Before we dismiss this subject, we beg leave to ask the Editor of the "Signs of the Times," if in view of such facts as the above, he does not feel ashamed before God and the world, for publishing a few weeks since, a blasphemous dialogue, purporting to be between the Pope and the Devil in which the Devil claims Bible Societies as an engine of his own choice, and by which means he expects to fill hell with lost souls, despite the efforts of his Unholiness, to suppress the Bible? Say, brother Gilbert Beebe, do you not feel guilty for lending your aid to degrade the men who would give the Bible, the light of life, to these benighted millions? O think again, and again, brother B., and may you soon see your awful mistake, and become the friend of God indeed, and not in word and tongue only.

CONNECTICUT BAPTIST LITERARY INSTITUTION.

The first examination of the classes in this infant Seminary, commenced on Tuesday last. The English and Classical department, the former under the tuition of Mr. Granger, and the latter, under that of Mr. Hall, were both very reputably sustained. The young gentlemen had evidently received, for the time, a thorough mental training. The promptness and accuracy with which they answered the questions propounded by their able instructors, showed them to be quite at home in their studies. It was understood, that they had not been informed of the lessons for the day; therefore a fair sample of what they could do, was given.

The Committee of Examination expressed their satisfaction in the course which had been pursued during the term. The number of students who have received instruction, 49.

There is now a fair prospect that this seminary will rise to an elevated rank among the literary institutions of our country, if its friends will but furnish students, and funds. The facilities are abundant. It is hoped that the parents and guardians of our youth, will send their sons to enjoy them.

At the close of the examination, brief remarks were made by the President of the Board, Rev. G. F. Davis, of this city. Prayer was offered by Rev. S. S. Mallery, of Willington.

There is now to be a vacation of two weeks.—Among the important acts of the Trustees, was a resolution not to incur any pecuniary responsibility until at least nine thousand dollars should be paid into the treasury. Mr. John Beaumont was appointed to collect the subscriptions on the east side of the river, and the Rev. William Bentley on the west. As the subscribers will be called on in a few days, they will confer a great favor by having the amount in readiness. There are doubtless many in this State that have not yet subscribed, who will thus be furnished with an opportunity of expressing their good will in a substantial way. Their donations will be cheerfully transmitted by the agent.

It was deemed by the Trustees quite important that a philosophical apparatus should be at once prepared for the Institution; and the Rev. H. Ball was appointed to solicit donations for this object.

STEAMBOAT NEW ENGLAND.

We have the Report of the Board of Examiners appointed by the Conn. River Steamboat Company, to inquire into the cause of the explosion. Published by the Company. The Board give it as their unanimous opinion, "That the explosion of the Steamboat N. England was caused by the pressure of steam, produced in the ordinary way, but accumulated to a degree of tension which the boilers were unable to sustain."—The Board are in our opinion peculiarly felicitous in coming unanimously to the same conclusion which had been previously drawn in the minds of persons nine tenths of the community, and from which not one of the sufferers will ever dissent. The most important inquiries are, as we believe, yet unanswered. How came this amazing accumulation of steam, which the Board say, (page 18) could not have been less than an explosive force of three millions of pounds to each boiler? Is the engineer blamable for it? Was it accidental? Might it not have been avoided by due care? These are the queries that press upon the public mind, and upon which the Board observe a very discreet silence. The mass of scientific speculations and illustrations, together with the description of the form and construction of a boiler, spread out in this report, will but poorly requite the pains of the wounded, or grieves of the bereaved; to say nothing of pecuniary losses sustained.

The following gentlemen composed the Board:

B. SILLIMAN, Professor of Chemistry, &c. Yale Col-

lege; W. C. REDFIELD, Engineer, and Agent of the Steam Navigation Co., N. York; D. OLMEY, Professor of Math. and Nat. Phil., Yale Col.; D. COPLAND, Engineer, and Manufacturer of Steam Engines, Hartford; J. J. LAWSON, Engineer of the Steamboat C. J. Marshall.

From the *Intelligencer of Tuesday Morning*.

The first session of the twenty-third Congress opened yesterday with an unusually full attendance in the House of Representatives, and a considerable majority in the Senate.

In the Senate, the Vice President being absent, the Chair was taken by the President pro tem. of the Senate, Mr. White, of Tennessee.

In the House of Representatives, Andrew Stevenson, of Virginia, was re-elected Speaker, without any regular opposition. Walter S. Franklin of Pennsylvania, was, on the third ballot, chosen clerk of the House; no other business besides swearing in the members, was done.

General Intelligence.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF CAPTAIN ROSS.—The spring and summer of the present year afforded the desolate party more cheering hopes. The ice opened on the 14th of August, and on the same day that Capt. Humphreys, in the Isabella, tried to reach Leopold's Island, they arrived there. The former could not cross the ice, and was driven by a N. W. gale to the Southward, up Prince Regent's Inlet. The party remained until the gale had departed, and having crossed when the Isabella was to the southward, they passed to the northward of her, having gained the south shore of Lancaster Sound, they nearly reached its entrance before the Isabella overtook them. It is impossible for any description to do justice to the feelings on either side at meeting. None but those who have been in a similar situation can form any idea of what passed in the minds of men rescued from such misery by the hand of Divine Providence; nor can the feelings of him who was selected as the instrument of mercy be fully appreciated.

The party were not more reduced than might have been expected. They have now recovered from their sufferings. The circumstance that Capt. Ross was rescued by the ship he commanded in 1818, is a curious and happy conclusion of the voyage, the result of which has been to establish, that THERE IS NO NEW [N. W.] PASSAGE SOUTH OF 74 DEGREES.

The country discovered, which is larger than Great Britain, has been named Boothia, after Felix Bootho, Esq. Sheriff of London in 1829, who much assisted Capt. Ross in fitting out the expedition. The true position of the magnetic pole has been discovered, and much valuable information obtained for the improvement of geographical and philosophical knowledge. Capt. Ross had a good opportunity of verifying his former survey of the west coast of Baffin's Bay, which every master of a Greenland ship can testify to be most correct.

Only three men died during the voyage, two of whom were men whose constitutions were unfit for the climate. On the whole, it may be truly said, that this expedition has done more than any that preceded it; and let it be remembered, that Capt. Ross and his nephew were volunteers, serving without pay, for the attainment of a great national object, in procuring which they have lost their all.

The Caledonian Mercury gives the following additional particulars:

Capt. J. mes Ross was the first to descry the welcome topsail of the Isabella; but being at first uncertain, he prudently concealed his hopes until he had distinctly ascertained with his glass that he was not mistaken, and then he communicated to all the glad tidings of approaching deliverance.

When they were first seen from the Isabella, they were mistaken for the whale boats of another ship lately in company, and the Isabella continued her course down the Inlet. But fortunately it became calm, and thus enabled Capt. Ross's party to near the ship, when they were distinctly seen, and they had the happiness to see her hoist to them, and were soon most kindly received by their wondering and delighted countrymen.

Capt. Ross considers it as fortunate that they escaped this season, for it is his opinion that another year would have proved fatal to most of them, as their remaining provisions and stores were inadequate to another Arctic winter. On comparing notes with their hosts, they found that in 1832, they had been within 20 miles of whaling ships, without being aware of the circumstance.

The London Times, in speaking of General Jackson's views about the United States Bank, says:

"It is a curious spectacle to see the chief magistrate of one of the most powerful commonwealths in the world committed with a body of capitalists, or a company of bankers, on a joint of financial security and electing influence. It is still more curious to find the temporary ruler of a 'roaring democracy,' elected by the universal suffrages of the citizens, putting his *retro* on a measure sanctioned by the two Houses of Congress, likewise chosen by the same democracy, and supposed to represent more faithfully or directly the national will."

We learn, says the Baltimore American, that in consequence of orders received here by express on Wednesday afternoon, from Washington, two of our largest ships, the Herald and the Jane, have been chartered to convey U.S. troops from Fortress Monroe to Alabama, touching at Savannah on their way. The heart sickens at the recital of such enormities; and one cannot refrain from fearful anticipations, in view of the increasing instances of disregard to the rights of citizens, of life, of social peace, and resort to combinations and brute force, to accomplish wicked and unlawful purposes, or purposes of revenge.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—To give this document as early as possible to our readers, an entire page of the paper is devoted, to the exclusion of other matter prepared for this week. This course, we suppose, will meet with general approbation, if we abstain from commenting upon it. To Congress, then, and to community at large we dismiss it, with this one remark, that if a people we do not appreciate our present national prosperity and peace, we are of all nations most ungrateful and ill-deserving.

THE PHILADELPHIA HERALD.—The Philadelphia Herald states that 1,339 vessels, viz. 2 ships, 1 barque, 124 brigs, 884 schooners, and 323 sloops, have departed from that port during the present season, up to the 1st instant, laden with Coal.

The Sugar Crop of Louisiana, it is said, will be more productive the present than any former year.

During the week ending the 15th inst., one hundred and sixty-five vessels passed through the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, 69 from the Delaware, and 26 from the Chesapeake. Former report 5,175: total this season, 5,340.

The Hon. William D. Martin, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in South Carolina, died very suddenly at Charleston, on the 16th inst. He arrived at Charleston but a few hours before the melancholy event, on his return from the south-eastern circuit.

The Hon. George M. Troup, of Georgia, and the Hon. Stephen D. Miller, of South Carolina, both nullifiers, have resigned their seats in the Senate of the United States, almost simultaneously, on account of ill health.

The land is full of portents which we take not up, on us to read or interpret. In addition to the accounts of hurricanes and falling stars, heretofore published, we have in the annexed extract of a letter from the vicinity of Hudson, N. Y., the notice of another very unusual occurrence.—*N. Y. American.*

"Woburn, near Hudson, Nov. 15.
A singular occurrence took place on my farm some days ago, which has excited a good deal of speculation among all who have since visited the spot. A beautiful and well grown little woods, which you re-

member on the left of the road as you approach the house, containing about an acre and a half, suddenly sunk down about thirty feet, most part of it perpendicular, so that where not long since the roots of the trees were to all appearance firmly imbedded, the topmost branches now peep out. The wood is bounded by the creek, of which the sides and bottom are blue clay. The land near the bank, from some unexplained cause, seems to have given way all at once, and slid into the creek; which, by the mass thrown into it, it so filled up, that from its previous width of fifty feet, with an occasional depth of twenty, it is reduced to a little rill that one might easily jump across.

A strip of land adjoining the road of about thirty feet wide, and of considerable length, has sunk down straight, so that where the surface was before level, there is now a perpendicular bank of thirty feet. The spectacle altogether is most curious, but as you may imagine, presents no great improvement to the appearance of my farm."

remarkably clear voice and an unusual degree of excellence. She arose from her piano, and walked to an adjoining room, and having seated herself in a chair, complained of a disagreeable sensation in her head. She had scarcely uttered the words, when she appeared to faint, and fell lifeless into her father's arms without a struggle or a groan! She was an amiable and affectionate daughter, the pride of her numerous relatives and acquaintances.

CICERONIAN LYCEUM.

MEMBERS OF THE CICERONIAN LYCEUM.—The members of the Ciceronian Lyceum are requested to meet in the Conference Room under the North Church, on Monday evening, Dec. 9th, at half past 6 o'clock, precisely.

PHILO A. GOODWIN, Secretary.

CONNECTICUT BAPTIST LITERARY INSTITUTION.

Extract of a letter to the editor of the New York Journal of Commerce, dated

Washington, Nov. 22.

Travelling accidents, as they are most improperly and falsely termed, are becoming so much a matter of course, that the newspapers cease to enumerate them, and the public to note them as a passing wonder.

The papers of this city contain no account of the "malignant accident," viz. the outrage perpetrated on the road between this city and Baltimore, on Tuesday morning last.

The two stages met and ran foul of each other at full speed, though the night was uncom-

monly bright, clear, and pleasant. The coach from Wash-

ington was shattered to pieces, and five out of seven

passengers, together with the driver, were severely

wounded; two of them not likely to live. A lady

from this city had her face bruised and broken in a

most shocking manner. The tongue of the Balti-

more coach was driven quite into the other, striking

one passenger, and wounding him so severely, that he

is not expected to survive it. I have not heard a single individual express the opinion that the collision

was the result of accident.

ECONOMY.—One of the New York and Liverpool

packets having become a temperance vessel, takes

passengers at 40 dollars less than the usual price.

Business of all descriptions is conducted 40 per cent.

more economically where there is no strong drink.

[W.] PASSAGE SOUTH OF 74 DEGREES.

The citizens of Newark, N. J. presented to Mrs.

Cla. an elegant carriage, in which her husband was

conveyed to New York. We learn that the friends of

Cla. will attend to the business of their appoint-

ment at the house of Abiram Chamberlain, in Cole-

brook; on the 11th day of December, 1833, and on the

10th day of March, 1834, at 9 o'clock, A. M. on each

of said days. And six months are allowed by said

Court, to the creditors of the said D'Wolf, to exhibit

and prove their claims to said Commissioners.

SAMUEL WHITFORD, Commissioner.

RUSSELL FRISBEE, Commissioner.

Colebrook, Oct. 18, 1833.

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BAPTIST LITERARY INSTITUTION AT SUFFIELD.

THE subscribers will receive Proposals for erecting a Brick Building, 33 by 80 feet, a plan of which will be exhibited on application to either of the Commit-

tee. The building to be commenced early in the

spring, and finished as soon as practicable. Apply to

MARTIN SHELDON, Suffield,

EDWARD BOLLES, Hartford,

ALBERT DAY, Hartford,

Committee to receive Proposals.

November 21st, 1833.

SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY.

F. J. HUNTINGTON,

WEST SIDE STATE HOUSE SQUARE, CORNER OF MAIN

AND ASYLUM STREETS,

KEEPS constantly for sale a great variety, in-

cluding every article necessary for the use of our Winter Schools, which he offers on the most reasonable terms. Teachers and Merchants re-

spectfully invited to call and examine for themselves. The following is a catalogue of part of his stock.

Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary, Anthon's Abridge-

ment do, Nugent's and Boyer's French do, Walk-

er's, Todd's Walker's Johnson, Worcester's and Web-

ster's English do, various sizes quarto, octavo and

school editions.

Adams', Gould's Adams' Latin Grammar, Levi-

zae's and Colomb's French Grammar, Bolmar's and

CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

MESSAGE

From the President of the United States to both
Houses of Congress.

and House of Representatives.

On your ass'ble to perform the high trust
which the people of the United States have confid-
ed to you, in legislating for their common welfare,
it gives me pleasure to congratulate you upon the
happy condition of our beloved country. By the fa-
vor of Divine Providence health is again restored
to us; peace reigns within our borders; abundance
crown's the labor of the fields; commerce and do-
mestic industry flourish and increase; and individual
happiness rewards the private virtue and enter-
prise of our citizens.

Our condition abroad is no less honorable than
it is prosperous at home. Seeking nothing that is
not right, and determined to submit to nothing that
is wrong, but desiring honest friendships and liberal
intercourse with all nations, the United States
have gained throughout the world the confidence
and respect which are due to policy so just and so
congenial to the character of the American people
and to the spirit of their institutions.

In bringing to your notice the particular state of
our Foreign Affairs, it affords me high gratifica-
tion to inform you, that they are in a condition
which promises the continuance of friendship with
all nations.

With Great Britain the interesting question of
our North Eastern boundary remains still unde-
cided. A negotiation, however, upon that subject
has been opened since the close of the last cou-
ncil; and a proposition has been submitted to the
British Government with the view of establishing
in conformity with the resolution of the Senate, the
line designated by the treaty of 1783. Though no
definitive answer has been received, it may be look-
ed for, and I entertain a hope that this overtur-
e may ultimately lead to a satisfactory adjustment of
this important matter.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that a nego-
tiation, which, by the desire of the House of Rep-
resentatives, was opened some years ago with the
British Government, for the erection of light houses
on the Bahama Islands, has been successful. Those works
when constructed, together with those which the
United States have constructed on the western side
of the Gulf of Florida, will contribute essentially to
the safety of navigation in that sea. This joint
participation in establishments interesting to hu-
manity and beneficial to commerce, is worthy of two
enlightened nations; and indicates feelings which
cannot fail to have a happy influence upon their
political relations.

It is gratifying to the friends of both to perceive
that the intercourse between the two peoples is be-
coming daily more extensive, and that sentiments
of mutual good will have grown up, befitting their
common origin and justifying the hope, that by wise
counsels on each side, not only unsettled questions
may be satisfactorily terminated, but new causes of
misunderstanding prevented.

Notwithstanding that I continue to receive the
most amicable assurances from the Government of
France, anithat in all other respects the most friendly
relations exist between the United States and that
Government, it is to be regretted that the stipulations
of the Convention concluded on the 4th July, 1831, remain in some important parts, unfulfilled.

By the second article of that Convention it has
stipulated that the sum payable to the United
States should be paid at Paris in six annual instal-
ments into the hands of such person or persons, as
should be authorized by the Government of the United
States to receive it, and by the same article the first
instalment was payable on the second day of Febrary, 1833. By the act of Congress on the 1st of July, 1832, it was made the duty of the Secretary
of the Treasury to cause the several instal-
ments with interest thereto, to be received from the
French Government, and transferred to the United
States as soon as he may deem best, and by the
same act of Congress, the stipulations on the part of the United States in the Convention were in all respects fulfilled. Not doubting that a
treaty, has made and ratified by the two Governments and faithfully executed by the United States would be promptly complied with by the other party, and desiring to avoid the risk and expense of
intermediate agencies, the Secretary of the Treasury
deemed it advisable to receive and transfer the
first instalment by means of a draft upon the
French Minister of Finance. A draft for this purpose was accordingly drawn in favor of the Cashier
of the Bank of the United States, for the amount ac-
cring to the United States, of the first instal-
ment, and the interest payable with it.

This bill was not drawn at Washington, until 5
days after the instalment was payable at Paris, and
was accompanied by a special authority from the
President authorizing the Cashier or his assignee to
receive the amount. The mode thus adopted of
receiving the instalment was officially made known
to the French Government, by the American Charge d'Affairs at Paris, pursuant to instructions from the Department of State. The bill, however,
though not presented for payment until the twenty-
third day of March, was not paid and for the rea-
sons assigned by the French Minister of Finance,
no appropriation had been made by the French
Chambers.

It is not known that up to that period, any approp-
riation had been required of the Chambers; and,
although a communication was subsequently made
to the Chambers, by direction of the King, recom-
mending that the necessary provision should be
made for carrying the convention into effect; it was
at an advanced period of the session, and the sub-
ject was finally postponed until the next meeting of
the Chambers.

Notwithstanding, it has been supposed by the
French Ministry, that the financial stipulations
of the treaty, cannot be carried into effect without an appropriation by the chambers, it appears to me to be not only consistent with
the charter of France, but due to the character
of both governments, as well as to the rights of our citizens, to treat the convention
made and ratified in proper form, as pledging
the good faith of the French Government for its
execution & as imposing on each Department
and obligation to fulfil it and I have received
assurance through our Charge d'Affairs at
Paris, and the French Minister Plenipotentiary at
Washington, and more recently through the Min-
ister of the United States, at Paris, that the delay
has not proceeded from any indisposition on the
part of the King and his Ministers to fulfil the
treaty, and that measure will be presented at the
next meeting of the Chambers, and with a reasonable
hope of success, to obtain the necessary
appropriation.

It is necessary to state, however, that the docu-
ments, except certain lists of vessels captured,
condemned or burnt at sea, proper to facilitate
the examination and liquidation of the reclama-
tions comprised in the stipulation of the Conven-
tion, and which by the 6th Article France engaged
to communicate to the United States by the inter-
mediary of the legation, though repeatedly
applied for by the American Charge d'Affairs, under
instructions from this Government, have not yet
been communicated; and this delay, it is ap-
prehended, will necessarily prevent the comple-
tion of the duties assigned to the Commissioners
within the time at present prescribed by law.

The reasons for delaying to communicate these
documents have not been explicitly stated, and this
is the more to be regretted, as it is not understood
that the interposition of the Chambers is in any man-
ner required for the delivery of these papers.

Under these circumstances, in a case so impor-
tant to the interests of our citizens, and to the character
of our country, and under disappointments so unex-
pected, I deemed it my duty, however I might respect
the general assurance to which I have adver-
sed, no longer to delay the appointment of a Minister
Plenipotentiary to Paris, but to despatch him in
order to communicate the result of his application to
the French Government at an early period of your
session. I accordingly appointed a distinguished
citizen for this purpose, who proceeded on his mis-
sion in August last, and was presented to the King
early in the month of October, since which time no
despatches have been received from him. He is
particularly instructed as to all matters connected
with the present posture of affairs, and I indulge the
hope, that with the representations he is instructed
to make, and from the dispositions manifested by

the King and his ministers, in their recent assur-
ances to our Minister in Paris, the subject will be
early considered and satisfactorily disposed of at the
next meeting of the Chambers.

As this subject involves important interests, and
has attracted considerable share of the public attention,
I have deemed it proper to make this explicit
statement of its actual condition; and should I be
disappointed in the hope now entertained, the sub-
ject will be again brought to the notice of Congress
in such manner as the occasion may require.

The friendly relations which have always been
maintained between the United States and Russia,
have been further extended and strengthened by the
treaty of navigation and commerce concluded on
the 6th December last, and sanctioned by the Sen-
ate before the close of its last session. The ratifi-
cations having been exchanged, the liberal pro-
visions of the Treaty are now in full force; and,
under the encouragement which they have received,
a flourishing and increasing commerce, yielding its
benefits to the enterprise of both nations, affords to
each the just recompence of wise measures and adds
new motives for that mutual friendship which the
United States have hitherto cherished towards each
other.

It affords me particular satisfaction to state that the
Government of Spain has at length yielded to the
justice of the claims which have been so long urged
in behalf of our citizens, and has expressed a
willingness to provide an indemnification, as soon
as the proper amount can be agreed upon. Upon
this latter point, it is probable an understanding has
been arrived at between the Minister of the United
States and the Spanish Government, before the de-
cease of the late King of Spain, and unless that ev-
er may have delayed its completion, there is reason
to hope that it may be in my power to announce
to you, early in your present session, the conclusion
of a convention upon terms not less favorable
than those entered into for similar objects with other
nations. That act of justice would well accord
with the character of Spain, and is due to the U.S.
from their ancient friend. It could not fail to
strengthen the sentiments of unity and good will
between the two nations which it is so much the
wish of the U.S. to cherish, and so truly the interest
of both to maintain.

By the first section of an act of Congress passed on
the 13th July, 1832, the tonnage duty on Spanish ships
arriving from the ports of Spain, was limited to the
duty payable on American vessels in the ports of
Spain previous to the 25th October, 1817, being five
cents per ton. This act was intended to give effect
to the provisions in the Spanish ports, but, as far as
they were concerned, with few exceptions, no longer to
disturb the public tranquility, it is earnestly hoped those
States will be able to employ themselves without
interruption in perfecting their institutions, cultiva-
ting the arts of peace and promoting, by wise com-
mon and sole exertions, the public and private pros-
perity which their patriotic struggles so well en-
title them to enjoy.

With those states our relations have undergone
but little change during the present year. No
annual hearing yet taken place between the states
which composed the republic of Colombia, our
Charge d'Affairs at Bogota has been accredited to
the Government of New Granada, and we have
therefore no diplomatic relations with Venezuela
and Ecuador, except as they may be included in
those heretofore formed with the Colombian Republic.
It is understood that representatives from the
three States were about to assemble at Bogota
to confer on the subject of their mutual interests,
which had formerly been formed with the
Spanish vessels under the act above mentioned,
especially in discriminating duty operating to the
disadvantage of Spain. Though no complaint has yet
been made by the part of Spain, we are not the less
bound by the obligation of good faith to remove the
discrimination; and I recommend that the act be
amended accordingly. As the Royal order above
alluded to includes the Ports of the Bahama and
Canary Islands, as well as those of Spain, it would
be necessary to amend the act so as to include
them. The changes made in our revenue system
by the acts of Congress of 1832 and 1833, and
more especially by the former, have swelled the
receipts of the present year, far beyond the
amount reduced by duties. The shortened credits
on revenue bonds, and the cash duties on wool-
lens, which were introduced by the act of 1832,
and took effect on the 4th of March last, have
brought large sums into the Treasury in 1833,
which, according to the credits formerly given,
would not have been payable until 1834, and
would have formed a part of the income of that
year. These changes would of themselves produce
a great diminution of the receipts in 1834, as
compared with the present one; and they would
be still more diminished by the reduced
rates of duties which take place on the first of
January next, on some of the most important
and productive articles.

Upon the best estimate that can be made, the
receipts of the next year, with the aid of the
unappropriated amount now in the Treasury,
will not be much more than sufficient to meet the
expenses of the year, and pay the small rem-
ainder of the national debt which yet remains unsat-
isfied. I cannot therefore, recommend to you
any alteration in the present tariff of duties.
The rate as now fixed by law on the various arti-
cles, was adopted at the last session of Congress,
as matter of compromise, with unusual unanimi-
ty, and unless it is found to produce more than
the necessities of the Government call for, there
would seem to be no reason at this time to justify
any alteration of the present system.

As the arrangement referred to, however, did
not embrace the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico,
discriminating duties to the prejudice of American
shipping continue to be levied there. From the ex-
tent of the commerce carried on between the United
States and those Islands, particularly the former,
this discrimination causes serious injury to those
great national interests which it has been considered
essential part of our policy to cherish, and has
given rise to complaints on the part of our mer-
chants. Under instructions given to our minister at
Madrid, earnest representations have been made by
him to the Spanish Government upon this subject
and there is reason to expect, from the friendly position
which is entertained towards this country, that a
beneficial change will be produced. The dis-
advantage however, to which our shipping is sub-
jected by the operation of those discriminating
duties, requires that they be met by suitable counter-
vailing duties during your present session; power
being at the same time vested in the President to
discharge under the encouragement secured to it
by the liberal provisions of the treaty.

It is a cause of regret, that, owing probably to
the civil dissensions which have occupied the
attention of the Mexican government, the time
fixed by the treaty of limits with the United
States for the meeting of the Commissioners to
fix our system of expenditure on firm and durable
principles: and I cannot too strongly urge
the necessity of a rigid economy, and an inflexible
determination not to enlarge the income be-
yond the real necessities of the Government, and
not to increase the wants of the Government by
unnecessary and profuse expenditures. If a
contrary course should be pursued, it may happen
that the revenue of 1834 will fall short of the
demands upon it; and after reducing the tariff
in order to lighten the burthen of the people,
and providing for a still further reduction to take
effect hereafter, it would be much to be de-
ployed, if at the end of another year, we should find
ourselves obliged to retrac our steps and impose
additional taxes to meet unnecessary expendi-
tures.

The selection and preparation of the Floridas
archives for the purpose of being delivered over
to the United States, in conformity with the
Royal order, as mentioned in my last annual mes-
sage, though in progress, has not yet been completed.
This delay has been produced, partly by
causes which were unavoidable, particularly the
prevalence of the cholera at Havana; but meas-
ures have been taken which it is believed will
expedit the delivery of those important records.

Congress were informed at the opening of the
last session, that "owing, as was alleged, to
the Spanish Government, but with certain
additional and explanatory articles of a nature
to have required it to be again submitted to the
Senate. The time limited for the exchange of
the ratifications, however, having since expired,
the action of both Governments on the treaty
will again become necessary.

The negotiations commenced with the Argent-
ine Republic relative to the outrages committed
on our vessels engaged in the fisheries at the
Falkland Islands by persons acting under the
color of its authority, as well as the other mat-
ters in controversy between the two countries,
which are now under consideration.

A thorough inquiry into the causes of this loss
was directed and made at the time, the result of
which will be duly communicated to you. I take
pleasure, however, in stating here, that by the
landable exertions of the officers of the Depart-
ment and many of the citizens of the District, but
few papers were lost, and none that will material-
ly affect the public interest.

The public convenience requires that another
building should be erected as soon as practicable,
and in providing for it, it will be advisable to en-
large in some manner the accommodations for
the public officers of the several Departments,
and to authorize the erection of suitable depo-
sitories for the safe keeping of the public documents
and records.

It is my duty on this occasion to call your atten-
tion to the destruction of the public building
occupied by the Treasury Department, which
happened since the last adjournment of Congress.
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was directed and made at the time, the result of
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